

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and system for preserving message order when parallel processing messages by: providing a marker (H) in each message (M) for identifying a source of messages for which it is required to preserve the message order; and dispatching (D) each message in accordance with its marker to one of a plurality of parallel processors (P1-P3) so that processing is preserved for messages processed through the plurality of parallel processors. The dispatcher (D) retains a list of all markers of messages that are being processed in parallel, and when a message becomes available to the dispatcher for processing, the dispatcher inspects the list of messages that are currently being processed to determine whether the marker of this message is in the list, and if so delays initiating parallel processing for this message until the marker is no longer in the list. This technique allows a stream of messages originating from multiple sources to be processed with the advantages of parallel processing, while preserving the order of a subset of these messages.

10

15

20